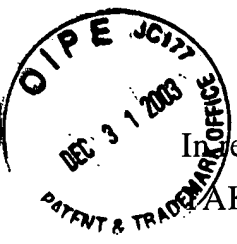


3621



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
AKANO

Atty. Ref.: 914-146

Serial No. 09/997,001 ✓

Group:

Filed: November 30, 2001

Examiner:

For: CONTENT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION AND RETURNING
SYSTEM, MANAGEMENT APPARATUS, RENTAL TERMINAL,
RETURNING TERMINAL AND CONTENT PROGRAMS RENTAL
METHOD

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December 31, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The references were cited in the attached Japanese Office Action regarding a foreign counterpart application. A translation of the Japanese Office Action citing the references is attached.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

TAKANO
Serial No. 09/997,001

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.


The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



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